



## NATIONAL ANIMAL INTEREST ALLIANCE

*Supporting the people who care for America's animals*

March 17, 2014

Letter in support of RB 445

### AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE ON THE SALE OF CATS AND DOGS FROM INHUMANE ORIGINS AT CONNECTICUT PET SHOPS

Dear Sen. Meyer, Rep. Gentile, and Members of the Connecticut General Assembly Environment Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA), a broad-based animal welfare organization founded in 1991 that is dedicated to securing high standards of animal care and treatment, and to preserving the human-animal bond. Our members are dog and cat enthusiasts, hobby breeders, rescuers and pet owners, animal professionals, scientists and veterinarians. We have members in every state and our Connecticut members are deeply concerned about the issue that RB 445 addresses.

**We are writing to express our support of RB 445 as written.** It is a thoughtful and balanced piece of legislation that codifies high animal welfare standards for local breeders as well as for puppies imported for sale in Connecticut pet shops. Importantly, it avoids blanket penalties or bans that affect everybody who breeds dogs, regardless of the quality of care they provide for their dogs.

We strongly support the intent of this bill, and believe it will further enhance the health and welfare of Connecticut dogs.

Sincerely,

Patti Strand, NAIA President